

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of evaluating the efficacy of a therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of *Chlamydia*-induced disease, comprising the steps of:
  - a) rationally selecting a particular mouse strain and identifying whether said strain is a low nitric oxide (NO) responder strain or a high NO responder strain when said strain is exposed to bacterial antigens;
  - b) rationally selecting a dose of *Chlamydia* to be administered to a test mouse of said strain;
  - c) if appropriate said mouse strain is a low nitric oxide responder, rationally selecting a feeding regimen with appropriate high levels of arginine and feeding said test mouse according to said regimen, and if said mouse strain is a high nitric oxide responder, performing at least one step selected from the group consisting of:
    - (i) rationally selecting a feeding regimen with low levels of arginine and feeding said test mouse according to said regimen; and
    - (ii) d) if appropriate, treating said test mouse with an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase-2 (NOS2);
  - [[e]] d) administering said dose of Chlamydia to said test mouse;
  - [[f]] e) administering said therapeutic or prophylactic treatment to said test mouse; and
  - [[g]] f) assessing the severity of chlamydial disease in said test mouse[[],]  
~~wherein the severity of chlamydial disease in said mouse differs from the severity of chlamydial disease in a reference mouse to which said therapeutic or prophylactic treatment was not administered.~~

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment is a prophylactic treatment and said step of administering said prophylactic treatment is performed before said step of administering *Chlamydia* to said mouse.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of administering *Chlamydia* to said mouse comprises administering between  $1 \times 10^5$  and  $1 \times 10^6$  IFU of *Chlamydia* to said mouse intranasally.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said mouse strain is A/J.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of rationally selecting a feeding regimen comprises selecting a diet high in protein and arginine.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rationally selecting a dose of *Chlamydia* to be administered to said test mouse comprises evaluating the mouse strain from which said test mouse is selected to determine the LD<sub>50</sub> for said mouse strain when treated with *Chlamydia psittaci*.